



**CODE OF  
RULES AND  
REGULATIONS**

**February 2026**

**Fox Waterway Agency  
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Fox Lake, IL 60020  
847-587-8540**



## **Fox Waterway Agency Code of Rules and Regulations Table of Contents**

### **Chapter 1   General Provisions**

- 1.01       Fox Waterway Code of Rules and Regulations
- 1.02       Definitions
- 1.03       Repeal of Ordinances
- 1.04       Ordinances Repealed Not Reenacted
- 1.05       Jurisdiction
- 1.06       Penalties

### **Chapter 2   Board of Directors**

- 2.01       Government of the Agency
- 2.02       Appointment, Term and Vacancies
- 2.03       Compensation and Expenses
- 2.04       Meetings
- 2.05       Special Meetings
- 2.06       Meeting Attendance
- 2.07       Quorum
- 2.08       Records
- 2.09       Treasurer
- 2.10       Board Policy and Procedures
- 2.11       Advisory Committee
- 2.12       Indemnification

### **Chapter 3   Administration**

- 3.01       Executive Director
- 3.02       Code Enforcement
- 3.03       Employees of the Agency
- 3.04       Possession of Agency Records/Property
- 3.05       State Gift Ban Act
- 3.06       Fiscal Year

### **Chapter 4   User Permit Sticker Regulations**

- 4.01       Waterway User Sticker Required
- 4.02       Application for Waterway User Sticker
- 4.03       User Fee Schedule
- 4.04       User Permit Sticker Transfer; Non-Transferability Upon Sale
- 4.05       Boat Identification
- 4.06       Inspections
- 4.07       Misuse of Stickers

- 4.08 Suspension, Revocation and Application Denial
- 4.09 Penalties; Enforcement

## **Chapter 5 Special Regulations During Flood and Overflow Conditions**

- 5.01 Waterway Zones
- 5.02 No Wake Boating Area
- 5.03 Closure of One or More Zones
- 5.04 Public Notification of Restricted Area
- 5.05 Prohibited Operations in a Restricted Area
- 5.06 Penalty

## **Chapter 6 Restricted Areas**

- 6.01 No Wake Areas
- 6.02 Unlawful Boat Anchoring
- 6.03 Buoy Regulations
- 6.04 Combustion Engines Prohibited
- 6.05 Swimming Area Restrictions
- 6.06 Designation of Restricted Waterway Areas
- 6.07 Designation of Emergency or Temporary Restricted Areas
- 6.08 Operation of Watercraft Upon Approach of an Authorized Emergency Watercraft

## **Chapter 7 Night Operations**

- 7.01 Night Lighting Required
- 7.02 Night Speed Limits

## **Chapter 8 Excessive Noise – State Motorboat Muffler Requirements**

- 8.01 Motorboat Mufflers Requirements

## **Chapter 9 Litter, Debris and Dumping**

- 9.01 Litter Defined
- 9.02 Policy
- 9.03 Dumping or Placing Litter in the Waterway Prohibited
- 9.04 Accumulation of Litter Prohibited
- 9.05 Abandonment of Watercraft or Vehicle Prohibited
- 9.06 Presumption of Violation by Watercraft Operator

## **Chapter 10 Siltation**

- 10.01 Policy
- 10.02 Siltation Prohibited

## **Chapter 11 Waterfowl Blind Regulations**

- 11.01 Policy
- 11.02 Waterfowl Blind Permit Required
- 11.03 Waterfowl Blind Permit Application
- 11.04 Waterfowl Blind Construction
- 11.05 Use of Waterfowl Blinds
- 11.06 Removal of Waterfowl Blinds and Deposit Refund
- 11.07 Agency Inspection
- 11.08 Penalty

## **Chapter 12 Waterway Restriction Permits**

- 12.01 Policy
- 12.02 Special Conditions
- 12.03 Permit Procedure
- 12.04 Board Review and Approval Procedure
- 12.05 Buoys

## **Chapter 13 Dredging Programs**

- 13.01 Policy
- 13.02 Owner-Requested Dredging Program
- 13.03 Owner Funded Dredging Program
- 13.04 Board Review and Approval Procedure

## **Appendix A: Definitions**

## **Appendix B: Board Ratified and Adopted Programs**



**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1.01 Fox Waterway Code of Rules and Regulations
- 1.02 Definitions
- 1.03 Repeal of Ordinances
- 1.04 Ordinances Repealed Not Reenacted
- 1.05 Jurisdiction
- 1.06 Penalties

**1.01 FOX WATERWAY AGENCY CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

A. Title: This code of ordinances shall be known and cited as the Fox Waterway Agency Code of Rules and Regulations.

B. Amendments: Any additions or amendments to this Code are incorporated into this Code so that a reference to the Fox Waterway Agency Code of Rules and Regulations includes such additions and amendments.

**1.02 DEFINITIONS**

A. Terms used in this Code, unless specifically defined in this Code, have the meanings prescribed by the Illinois Compiled Statutes for the same terms.

B. Terms used in this Code, whether capitalized or not, have the meanings found in Appendix A of this Code.

C. The Fox Waterway Act (615 ILCS 90/1 et seq.) and the Boat Registration and Safety Act (625 ILCS 45/1-1 et seq.) shall control in defining any terms used in this Code that are not defined herein.

**1.03 REPEAL OF ORDINANCES**

A. All general ordinances or parts previously adopted by the Board of Directors and not included in this Code are repealed, except the following which are hereby continued in full force and effect.

- 1. Ordinances authorizing contracts or the issue of notes or bonds;
- 2. Ordinances approving budgets, appropriating funds or establishing salaries;
- 3. Ordinances authorizing or relating to particular public improvement;
- 4. Any other ordinances not in conflict with the provisions of this Code.

B. The provisions of this Code, so far as they are the same in substance as those of existing ordinances, are continuations of such ordinances and not new enactments.

#### 1.04 **ORDINANCES REPEALED NOT REENACTED**

No ordinance or part of any ordinance previously repealed shall be considered reordained or reenacted by virtue of this Code, unless specifically reenacted.

#### 1.05 **JURISDICTION**

Unless otherwise provided in this Code, this Code applies to acts performed within the Agency and territory set forth in 615 ILCS 90/4. Provisions of this Code also apply to acts performed outside the corporate limits and up to the limits prescribed by law where the law confers power on the Agency to regulate such particular acts outside the corporate limits.

#### 1.06 **PENALTIES**

A. Unless another penalty is specifically provided for by this Code for violation of any particular provision, section or chapter, any person violating any provision of this Code or any rule or regulation adopted or issued hereunder, or any provision of any Code adopted herein by reference, shall, upon conviction, be subject to civil penalty not to exceed the higher of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per violation or the amount authorized in the Fox Waterway Agency Act, 615 ILCS 90/1, *et seq.*, injunctive relief to restrain violations, recovery of all damages caused by said actions or inactions and incarceration as provided by statute. "Damages" as used in this Section shall include, but not be limited to, costs to repair damage caused to Agency-owned and/or State-owned property, materials and labor, and supervision required to make such repairs.

B. Any violation of this Code shall result in the Agency (1) cause any vessel to be removed from the water until the violation is corrected to the satisfaction of the Agency, and (2) issue violation citations.

C. Each act of violation and each day upon which a violation occurs constitute a separate offense and liability shall be shared jointly and severally between all persons found in violation of this Code.

D. In addition to the fines and damages recoverable by the Agency, as provided in this Section, any person found in violation of any provision of the Code shall be liable to reimburse the Agency for all reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expert witness fees incurred in the investigation and prosecution of such violation.

E. The remedies provided in this Code shall not be exclusive and the Agency may seek whatever other remedies are authorized by statute, at law or in equity against any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this Code.

F. The penalty provided by this Section applies to the amendment of any section of this Code or a code adopted herein by reference whether or not such penalty is reenacted in the amendatory ordinance.

G. Reference to a section of this Code shall be understood also to refer to and include the penalty section relating thereto, unless otherwise expressly provided.

H. In the event any fee, including, but not limited to those relating to fines, penalties, repair, abatement, restitution and reimbursement, found in any section of the Code that is due the Agency and is not paid, the cost of collecting said fee shall be added to the fee. Collection costs shall include, but not be limited to, prosecution and attorney fees.



## **CHAPTER 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2.01	Government of the Agency
2.02	Appointment, Term and Vacancies
2.03	Compensation and Expenses
2.04	Meetings
2.05	Special Meetings
2.06	Meeting Attendance
2.07	Quorum
2.08	Records
2.09	Treasurer
2.10	Board Policy and Procedures
2.11	Advisory Committee
2.12	Indemnification

### **2.01 GOVERNMENT OF THE AGENCY**

The Agency shall be governed by a Board of Directors, which shall be elected pursuant to 615 ILCS 90/5. The Board shall consist of six Directors and one Chairman. The Board shall select from its membership a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board is the corporate authority of the Agency and shall exercise all the powers and manage and control all the affairs and property of the Agency.

### **2.02 APPOINTMENT, TERM AND VACANCIES**

A. Election: The members of the Board shall be elected and serve pursuant to 615 ILCS 90/5 and until their successors are elected and qualified, as provided by law.

B. Term: The term of office for an elected official shall begin prior to the adjournment of the first regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors following receipt of the official election results from the State Board of Elections.

C. Vacancies: If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to 615 ILCS 90/5.

### **2.03 COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES**

Each member of the Board shall be compensated as specified in 615 ILCS 90/6, as amended. Payments shall be made in equal installments at the end of each month.

The Agency will reimburse Board members for expenses directly related to Agency business and approved by the Board prior to the expenditure.

## 2.04 **MEETINGS**

All regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting location shall be at such location designated from time to time by the Board of Directors in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Members of the public are invited and permitted to speak at any public, open meeting of the Board, its advisory committee and any other subcommittee of the Fox Waterway Agency (collectively, "Public Body") subject to the following rules:

A. Individuals wishing to be heard may be recognized by the Chairman of the Public Body during the public comment portion of each meeting.

B. Public comment may be restricted to no more than three minutes for each individual speaker. The Chairman of the Public Body may permit additional comment in his or her discretion taking into account the number of persons wishing to be heard on a matter and the amount of business requiring attention.

C. Members of the public may be asked to avoid repeating comments that have already been made, although they may be given the opportunity to indicate that they agree or disagree with an earlier speaker.

D. Members of the public may be required to identify themselves for the record being kept by the recording secretary. Members may be asked but are not required to provide an address for the record.

E. The Chairman of the Public Body shall require that order and decorum be maintained at public meetings. This includes prohibiting outbursts from the public or other behavior that is threatening, disorderly or disruptive to the public business. The Chairman of the Public Body may eject from a public meeting any person who, in the Chairman's sole opinion, disrupts the order and decorum of the meeting or otherwise violates the rules of this Section.

F. Public comment shall be restricted to portions of meetings which are required to be open to the public under the Open Meetings Act. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to allow public access to or public comment at closed sessions or any other meeting of public officials which is not required to be open to the public under the Open Meetings Act.

## 2.05 **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

The Chairman or any two members of the Board may call special meetings of the Board pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

## 2.06 **MEETING ATTENDANCE**

If no quorum is present, the Board shall, by majority vote, adjourn or recess the meeting to another time or date or to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

## 2.07 **QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the Board then holding office shall constitute a quorum thereof.

## 2.08 **RECORDS**

The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the proceedings of the Board.

## 2.09 **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall be custodian of all Agency funds and shall be bonded in such amount as the Board designates. In addition to the Treasurer, the Chairman, Secretary and Executive Director are authorized to sign checks on behalf of the Agency. Two signatures shall be required for each check.

## 2.10 **BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The Agency hereby adopts, by reference, its Rules of Procedure, Responsibility and Conduct, dated May 27, 1999.

## 2.11 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A. Appointment: Pursuant to 615 ILCS 90/7, the Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Agency Board of Directors, shall appoint a chairperson and members of an Advisory Committee consisting of interested public officials and members of the public. The Advisory Committee appointments shall remain in place until the appointee resigns or is removed from the appointed office by the Chairman and Board of Directors of the Agency. Removal of appointed members from the Advisory Committee may be for any reason or no reason at all. The members of the Advisory Committee shall serve with no compensation.

B. Meetings: The Advisory Committee shall meet as often and as deemed necessary by the chairman of the Advisory Committee and all meetings shall comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

C. Duties: The duties of the Advisory Committee shall be to review and make recommendations to the Agency Board of Directors, from time to time, on matters pertinent to the Fox Waterway and Chain O Lakes, and specifically assigned to the Advisory Committee by the Agency Board or its chairman, which may include, but not be limited to the following:

- Yearly dredging plan
- User Fee classifications and fee
- Special event criteria
- Proposed Agency programs and regulations
- Budget
- Ordinances
- Policies
- Concerns of committee members and/or Waterway users
- Safety
- Water Quality
- Recreation, public relations and tourism

## 2.12 **INDEMNIFICATION**

In the event a lawsuit is filed against any former or current employee or elected Agency Director for acts relating to the Agency or Agency business affairs while employed in office, the Agency shall retain and pay counsel of its choice to defend the employee or Director. The Agency shall also indemnify the employee or director for any acts, for which he or she is found liable, within the scope of his or her office, duty or employment with the Agency. The protection afforded to employees or directors in this Section shall apply where defense and indemnity is not adequately provided for, without any conflict of interest, by the Agency's liability insurance carrier.

## **CHAPTER 3 ADMINISTRATION**

- 3.01 Executive Director
- 3.02 Code Enforcement
- 3.03 Employees of the Agency
- 3.04 Possession of Agency Records/Property
- 3.05 State Gift Ban Act
- 3.06 Fiscal Year

### **3.01 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

A. Executive Authority: The executive authority of the Agency shall be vested in the Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Board.

B. Duties: In addition to those powers referred to in 615 ILCS 90/6, the Executive Director shall be charged with overall responsibility to implement the programs, procedures, policies, rules and regulations established by the Board, and shall manage the day-to-day operations of the Agency. He or she shall bear primary responsibility for all hiring and firing of part-time employees of the Agency, and for discipline of all employees of the Agency. Decisions regarding the hiring, promotion and firing of full-time employees shall be made by the Board or the Executive Director at its direction. The Executive Director shall also be responsible for coordinating the Agency's efforts to work with the IDNR, the USACE, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, all local units of government with jurisdiction in the Agency's territory and all other units of government and elected or appointed officials as may be beneficial or necessary for the continued improvement of the Fox River Watershed and fulfilling the mission given to the Agency by the state legislature in its enabling legislation. The Executive Director shall report directly to the Board.

### **3.02 CODE ENFORCEMENT**

The Executive Director, or designee, shall have the overall responsibility to implement the administration, interpretation and enforcement of this Code and making and maintaining records thereof; monitoring the Waterway for compliance with this Code and with all permits issued hereunder; conduct such inspections, field examinations and research as are necessary to insure compliance with all of the provisions of this Code, and where there are variations, initiate action to secure compliance; provide Code information on request; and act as a liaison with local law enforcement agencies.

### **3.03 EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY**

A. Application: The provisions of this Section 3.03 shall apply to all employees of the Agency, regardless of the time of the creation of the office or position of employment, and regardless of the time of employment of the employee.

B. Employees of the Agency: Agency employees shall be subject to the personnel policies approved by the Board.

C. Records: All records kept or maintained by any employee of the Agency shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times, whether or not such records are required to be kept by statute or ordinance, except where state statute provides otherwise.

D. Monies Received: Every employee of the Agency shall turn over all monies received by him in his official position or employment to the Treasurer, with a statement showing the source from which the same was received, and shall take the Treasurer's receipt therefore.

E. Salaries and Wages: All employees of the Agency shall receive such salaries or wages as approved by the Executive Director. No employee receiving a salary from the Agency shall be entitled to retain any portion of any fees collected or received by him or her in the performance of his or her duties as an Agency employee, in the absence of specific authorization to the contrary as may be provided by law or by ordinance.

### 3.04 **POSSESSION OF AGENCY RECORDS/PROPERTY**

Upon termination of employment, the employee shall deliver to the Executive Director all property, including phones, records, official badges, clothing, books and effects in his or her possession, belonging to the Agency. Upon refusal to do so, the terminated employee shall be liable for all damages caused thereby and subject to a fine of not less than \$500 for each violation, plus any costs incurred by the Agency, including attorney fees, to recover said property. Each day that the violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

### 3.05 **STATE GIFT BAN ACT**

A. Adoption of Act:

1. The State Gift Ban Act (5 ILCS 425 *et seq.*) (the "ACT") is hereby adopted as required by Section 83 of the Act (5 ILCS 425/83).
2. The solicitation or the acceptance of gifts prohibited to be solicited or accepted under the Act are prohibited by any elected or appointed official or any employee of the Agency.

B. Hearing on Complaints: All complaints for violations of the Act and this Section 3.05 shall be heard by the Board. An ethics officer shall be appointed by the Board for each hearing.

C. Future Amendments to State Gift Ban Act: Any amendment to the Act that becomes effective after the passage of this Section shall be incorporated into this Section by reference and shall be applicable to the solicitation and acceptance of gifts. However, any amendment that makes its provisions optional for adoption by this Agency shall not be incorporated into this Section by reference without formal action by the corporate authorities of the Agency.

3.06 **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Agency shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of that year.



**CHAPTER 4**  
**USER PERMIT STICKER REGULATIONS**

- 4.01 Waterway User Sticker Required
- 4.02 Application for Waterway User Sticker
- 4.03 User Fee Schedule
- 4.04 User Permit Sticker Transfer; Non-Transferability Upon Sale
- 4.05 Boat Identification
- 4.06 Inspections
- 4.07 Misuse of Stickers
- 4.08 Suspension, Revocation and Application Denial
- 4.09 Penalties; Enforcement

**4.01 WATERWAY USER STICKER REQUIRED**

A. Except for Watercraft owned by local, state or federal governmental agencies, it shall be unlawful for any person to use any Watercraft on the Waterway unless the Watercraft (i) is properly titled and registered with the State of Illinois, as required by law (“Required State Registration”), and (ii) issued a valid Waterway User Sticker by the Agency.

B. Issuance of a Waterway User Sticker is a privilege, not a right, and is subject to suspension or revocation for violation of this Code.

C. The Agency charges User Fees for use of recreational and commercial Watercraft on the Waterway. All persons or entities desiring to operate a Watercraft on the Waterway shall apply for and pay the required User Fees for a Waterway User Sticker for in the manner prescribed by the Agency, including through the Agency’s online application and payment systems. Upon receipt of a complete application and payment of all applicable fees, the Agency may issue a Waterway User Sticker.

D. An annual Waterway User Sticker authorizes use of the Watercraft upon the Waterway for one (1) calendar year, beginning January of the year issued.

**4.02 APPLICATION FOR WATERWAY USER STICKER**

A. **Recreational User Stickers.** All persons or entities desiring to operate a Watercraft on the Waterway for recreational purposes shall apply for and pay for a Waterway User Sticker in the manner prescribed by the Agency. (“Recreational User Sticker”).

**1. Temporary User Sticker**

- a. A One-Day Temporary Sticker is available for any watercraft and shall be valid only on the date of issuance and shall expire twenty-four (24) hours thereafter.

- b. A Ten-Day Temporary User Sticker is available for Watercraft and shall be valid beginning on the date of issuance and shall expire ten (10) consecutive calendar days thereafter.
    - c. Temporary User Stickers are not available for Commercial Boat Operations.
  2. The User Fee for a Recreational User Sticker shall include the applicable Watercraft class fee set forth in Section 4.03A and any applicable processing fees set forth in Section 4.03D. The User Fee for a Temporary User Sticker shall include the applicable fee set forth in Section 4.03.C and any applicable processing fees.
  3. Applications shall be submitted in the manner prescribed by the Agency and shall include all required by the Agency. The Agency may require submission of proof of Required State Registration. Failure to supply required information, or submission of false or misleading information, shall result in denial of the application.

**B. Commercial User Sticker.**

1. Any person or entity desiring to conduct Commercial Boat Operations on the Waterway shall apply for a Waterway User Sticker with a Commercial Endorsement.
2. Applications for a Commercial User Sticker shall be made in-person using forms prescribed by the Agency and shall be accompanied by payment of all the applicable fees.
3. The User Fee for a Commercial User Sticker shall include the applicable Watercraft fee in Section 4.03A, the Commercial Endorsement fee in Section 4.03B, as well as any applicable processing fees provided for in Section 4.03D.
4. Commercial Operations categories shall include Dealers, Work Boats, and Rentals (watercraft only and Passenger Boats for Hire), as defined in Appendix A of this Code. Dealer User Fees shall be assessed on a per-sticker flat-fee basis. All other Commercial Watercraft fees shall be assessed at twice the applicable Recreational User Sticker rate for the applicable class.
5. An applicant shall submit with its application copies of all registrations, licenses, and other authorizations required by state law for the Commercial Operations category applicable to the Watercraft User Sticker being applied for. The Agency may require the submission of additional information reasonably necessary to administer and enforce this Code, including a certified copy of any registration or license or presentation of the original document at the Agency office for inspection.

6. An application shall be deemed incomplete and will not be processed until all required documentation has been submitted in a form acceptable to the Agency. Any review period, approval deadline, or other time requirement established by this Code shall not commence until the Agency determines that the application is complete.
7. Applicants shall provide written notice to the Agency of any material change in ownership within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of the change and shall the name and address of the person(s) acquiring the ownership interest.
8. Failure to supply the required information or submission of false or misleading information shall result in a denial of the application.
9. The acquisition, proper display, maintenance, and lawful use of a Commercial User Sticker in accordance with this Chapter 4 shall be the joint and several obligation and responsibility of: (a) the Watercraft owner; (b) the individual executing the Application; and (c) any agent, employee, manager, operator, or other person exercising control over, or responsible for, the operation of the business or the Watercraft.

**C. User Fees and Processing Charges.**

1. The Agency may assess processing fees for in-person applications for Recreational and Temporary User Stickers. No processing fee shall be charged for online Recreational or Commercial User Sticker applications.
2. A credit card processing fee shall be assessed for credit card transactions.
3. Processing fees will be assessed for sticker transfers, replacements, or refunds, out of state Watercraft, and returned checks.
4. Stickers purchased at Satellite Stations shall be paid for by credit card only and shall be subject to service and credit card charges established by the Satellite Station.

**4.03 USER FEE SCHEDULE**

The following User Fee schedule shall apply:

**A. Recreational User Stickers (Watercraft fee)**

CLASS A	Motor-powered Watercrafts 15 HP or less.	\$60.00
CLASS B	Motor-powered Watercrafts, personal Watercraft, & jet skis over 15 HP, NOT exceeding 25 feet in length.	\$125.00
CLASS C	Motor-powered Watercraft over 15 HP, greater than 25 feet in length, NOT exceeding 30 feet in length.	\$210.00

CLASS E	Motor-powered Watercraft over 15 HP & greater than 30 feet in length.	\$250.00
CLASS X	NON-Motor-powered Watercraft	\$20.00
CLASS W	Any Watercraft involved in waterfowl hunting activity, WITHOUT A CURRENT STICKER. (Available August 1 <sup>st</sup> through December 31 <sup>st</sup> , yearly. A current valid hunting license is required to purchase a sticker and any applicable out-of-state fees.)	\$45.00

**B. Commercial User Stickers (Watercraft and Commercial Endorsement Fee)**

Dealer Boats	Any length	\$250.00
CLASS A	Motor-powered Watercrafts 15 HP or less	\$120.00
CLASS B	Motor-powered Watercrafts, personal Watercraft, & jet skis over 15 HP, NOT exceeding 25 feet in length.	\$250.00
CLASS C	Motor-powered Watercrafts over 15 HP, greater than 25 feet in length, NOT exceeding 30 feet in length	\$420.00
CLASS E	Motor-powered Watercrafts over 15 HP & greater than 30 feet in length.	\$500.00
CLASS X	NON-Motor-powered Watercrafts	\$40.00

**C. Temporary User Stickers**

CLASS J 1-Day	1-Day Temporary Sticker - Any length. To be used on the day of issue; expires after 24 hours.	\$25.00
CLASS F 10- Day	10-Day Temporary Sticker - Any length. To be used commencing on issue date; expires after 10 consecutive days.	\$75.00

**D. WRP User Fees**

Construction Activity WRP Event	For commercial projects valued at \$50,000 or greater, 1% of estimated construction cost. Watercraft Commercial User Sticker Fees apply and are not included.
Commercial Recreational WRP Event	Reimbursement of Agency's direct costs for labor, material, and equipment incurred for the WRP event.

**E. Processing Fees**

The following processing fees apply to all Recreational and Commercial User Stickers:

PROCESSING FEE	Charged for Recreational Users for in-person renewals. Not applicable to Commercial User or online Recreation Sticker applications.	\$10.00
	Agency Credit Card Processing Fee	2.5%
OUT-OF-STATE FEE	Per Watercraft registered outside the State of Illinois. Proof of State registration may be required. Does not apply to Temporary User Stickers and non-motorized Watercraft that don't require state registration numbers are exempt.	\$50.00
LOST STICKERS	Re-issue of a lost Waterway Sticker to the original holder. Proof of original purchase is required. No replacements after 90 days from the date of purchase. (Lost stickers can only be processed at the Fox Waterway Agency Office.)	\$20.00
TRANSFER POLICY	Per sticker transfer fee, in addition to any additional fee due to a requested class upgrade. Applies to the original owner only. Original stickers must be returned when applying for a transfer. (Fox Waterway Agency Office only.)	\$5.00
DUPLICATE RETURN FEE	Refunds requested for duplicate Sticker purchases for the same Watercraft and same owner, shall be issued upon proof of duplicate purchase and return of one set of permits in reusable condition. The refund will be for the sticker fee only, less the duplicate return fee. Requests for refunds must be made within 30 days of purchase. (Duplicate sticker refunds can only be processed at the Fox Waterway Agency Office.)	\$20.00
REFUNDS	<u>NO REFUNDS</u> for issued Stickers will be given after April 1st of each year.	TBD
RETURNED CHECK POLICY	Applied to all returned checks.	\$30.00
DENIED APPLICATION FEE RETURN	If an application is denied, the fee will be returned, less the applicable processing fee.	TBD

#### 4.04 USER STICKER TRANSFER; NON-TRANSFERABILITY UPON SALE

A. Waterway User Stickers are issued solely to the original sticker applicant for the specific Watercraft identified in the Application. Transferring a Waterway User Sticker to any another person or to another Watercraft is prohibited except as expressly authorized herein.

B. **Transfer to a Replacement Watercraft by Applicant.** The Agency may authorize transfer of a Waterway User Sticker by to a replacement Watercraft owned by the same applicant upon verification that: (1) The original sticker has been removed; (2) The removed sticker has been surrendered to the Agency; and (3) all applicable transfer fees have been paid.

C. **Sales or Transfer of Ownership.** Upon sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership of a Watercraft, the associated Waterway User Sticker shall be void and shall not transfer to the new owner.

D. **Limited Dealer Exception.** A Commercial User Sticker issued to a Dealer may be temporarily affixed to a portable placard and transferred among Watercraft owned or held for sale by the dealer solely for water testing purposes.

1. Dealer stickers shall be removed prior to sale or transfer of any Watercraft to a non-dealer.
2. Misuse of a Dealer sticker may result in the suspension or revocation of Dealer eligibility to receive a Commercial Use Sticker and other enforcement action.

#### **4.05 BOAT IDENTIFICATION**

A. Two (2) Waterway User Stickers shall be issued per approved application and shall be affixed on each side of the Watercraft midway between the bow and the stern, or on side windows if applicable. All expired stickers shall be removed.

B. Watercraft used in Commercial Boat Operations shall display permanent identification on each side of the Watercraft, including the business name, fleet number for each boat, beginning with #1 and increasing chronologically, and for livery boats, the business phone number. Identification shall be in block letters and numbers at least three inches (3") high and contrasting with the vessel color.

#### **4.06 INSPECTIONS**

A. Any Watercraft using the Waterway pursuant to a Waterway User Sticker is subject to inspection by the Agency or its Designees upon reasonable notice to ensure compliance with this Code. Violations of state and local laws and regulations will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

B. Failure to comply with the requirements of this Section may result in the suspension or revocation of the User Sticker and such other applicable fines and penalties provided in this Code. Continued violations may result in the impoundment of

the Watercraft being used until such time as compliance is verified by the Agency or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

#### **4.07 MISUSE OF STICKERS OR APPLICATION PROCESS**

A. It shall be unlawful to use, display, operate, or allow the operation of any Watercraft on the Waterway with suspended or revoked Waterway User Sticker.

B. It shall be unlawful to affix or permit anyone to affix a Waterway User Sticker to any Watercraft other than the Watercraft to which it was issued.

C. Counterfeiting, reproducing, altering, or using an invalid sticker is prohibited

D. Any unauthorized transfer, falsification, concealment, or misuse of a sticker is prohibited. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

E. Proxy purchase or evasion of suspension or revocation is prohibited.

F. Any Waterway User Sticker obtained in violation of this Section is void.

#### **4.08 SUSPENSION, REVOCATION AND APPLICATION DENIAL**

A. The Agency may deny, suspend or revoke a Waterway User Sticker upon a finding of violation of this Chapter, applicable state laws or regulations, federal laws or regulations, or repeated Code violations.

B. A suspension or revocation of a Waterway User Sticker shall apply to the person to which it was issued and the specific Watercraft to which the Sticker was assigned.

C. The Agency may suspend or revoke all Commercial User Stickers based on repeated violations within the current or prior boating season.

D. The Agency shall have sole discretion to approve or deny the issuance of a Recreational User Sticker for a Watercraft whose Commercial User Sticker has previously been suspended or revoked. In exercising such discretion, the Agency may consider the nature of the underlying violation, the duration of the suspension or revocation, corrective actions taken, changes in ownership or control, and any other factors the Agency deems relevant to ensuring compliance with this Code.

E. Written notice of the alleged violations and proposed enforcement action shall be provided at least seven (7) days prior to enforcement.

F. The Sticker holder may submit a written response within five (5) business days of the Notice date.

G. The Agency shall issue a final determination after consideration of any timely response. No formal hearing is required unless otherwise mandated by law.

#### 4.09 PENALTIES; ENFORCEMENT

A. **Sanctions.** Upon final determination, the Agency may impose suspension, revocation, fines, civil penalties, or impoundment.

B. **Civil Penalties.** Any person or entity found in violation shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the higher of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per violation or the amount authorized in the Fox Waterway Agency Act, 615 ILCS 90/1 *et seq.*, injunctive relief, and recovery of all damages and legal fees incurred by the Agency in the prosecution of such violation.

C. **Cumulative Remedies.** Remedies under this Code are cumulative and not exclusive. The Agency may pursue any remedy or enforcement action authorized by law or equity.

D. **Imputed Acts and Omissions.** The act, omission, or failure of any official, agent, employee, or other person acting for or on behalf of an Owner shall be deemed the act, omission, or failure of both such person and the Owner.

E. **Joint and Several Liability.** If a violation is committed by a business entity, the entity and any officer, employee, or agent who authorized, directed, or participated in the act or omission giving rise to the violation shall be jointly and severally liable for any penalty imposed. Each such person shall be independently responsible for ensuring full compliance with the requirements of this Chapter, and a violation by any one such person shall not relieve any other responsible person of liability.

F. **Discretion to Proceed.** The Agency may initiate enforcement action against any person or entity responsible for a violation, regardless of whether other persons may also be potentially liable, and the Agency shall not be required to proceed against all potentially responsible parties.

**CHAPTER 5**  
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS DURING FLOOD AND OVERFLOW CONDITIONS**

- 5.01 Waterway Zones
- 5.02 No Wake Boating Area
- 5.03 Closure of One or More Zones
- 5.04 Public Notification of Restricted Area
- 5.05 Prohibited Operations in a Restricted Area
- 5.05 Penalty

**5.01 WATERWAY ZONES**

In the event of flood and overflow conditions on the Waterway, the Agency or the IDNR may designate all or part of the Waterway as a No Wake Boating Area or a Restricted Boating Area subject to the boating restrictions set forth in this Chapter. For the purposes of this Chapter, the Waterway territory shall be divided into three zones: Zone A, Zone B and Zone C, which zones include the following territory:

1. Zone A: Waterway territory from the Algonquin dam north to the McHenry dam.
2. Zone B: Waterway territory from the McHenry dam north to Pistakee Lake
3. Zone C: Waterway territory from Pistakee Lake north to the Wisconsin State line.

**5.02 NO WAKE BOATING AREA**

A. A zone may be deemed “No Wake” upon the Agency’s determination that severe high water conditions exist, and:

1. for Zone A, whenever the IDNR’s Stratton Lock and Dam tail water downstream gauge (hereinafter “Stratton Dam gauge”) reading exceeds 3.00;
2. for Zone B, whenever the IDNR’s Johnsburg gauge exceeds 4.50; and
3. for Zone C, whenever the IDNR’s Fox Lake gauge exceeds 5.00.

B. A “No Wake” designation under this Chapter may remain in effect until the water gauge reading in the affected zone has decreased to at or below the levels set forth in this Section.

**5.03 CLOSURE OF ONE OR MORE ZONES**

A. The IDNR/OWR, with concurrence of the U.S. Coast Guard, may declare the Waterway, or any zone(s) thereof, a Restricted Boating Area closed to all navigation

pursuant to applicable federal and state laws and regulations. In the event that the IDNR determines the presence of conditions that make navigation of the Waterway, or any zone(s) thereof, significantly dangerous to the public, the IDNR may, in coordination with the federal government, designate such area(s) Restricted Boating Area(s). This designation will remain in effect until the IDNR determines that navigation is no longer significantly dangerous to the public.

B. Immediately upon the Agency's receipt of notice from the IDNR/OWR that conditions in a zone warrant closure of the zone, such zone shall be deemed a Restricted Boating Area and shall be closed to all navigation until such restriction is rescinded by the IDNR/OWR or U.S. Coast Guard.

#### 5.04 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF RESTRICTED AREA

A. Designation of a No Wake Boating Area due to flood and overflow conditions by the Agency shall be made by public announcement. Immediately upon the designation of a No Wake Boating Area in one or more zones, the Agency shall notify the public through electronic means such as through its web site, e-mails to media contacts, and/or social media outlets, as applicable (i.e. Facebook, RSS-feed). Signage posted on main navigational thoroughfare bridges (where applicable) that cross the Waterway area will be flipped. Rescission of a No Wake Boating Area shall be similarly publicly announced by the Agency.

B. Closure, as determined under 5.03, shall remain the responsibility and duty of the IDNR and U.S. Coast Guard. The FWA may provide public notification in the manner described in 5.04.A as a public service.

#### 5.05 PROHIBITED OPERATIONS IN A RESTRICTED AREA

A. No Wake Areas: It shall be unlawful to operate a private motor-powered watercraft at any speed great enough to create a wake in any zone declared to be a "No Wake" Boating Area. For purposes of this Code, a "wake" is defined as a movement of water created by a boat underway great enough to disturb a boat at rest, but under no circumstances shall a boat underway exceed five miles per hour while in a posted "No Wake" Boating Area.

B. Restricted Boating Areas: It shall be unlawful to operate any private motor or sail vessel or public vessel in any zone which has been closed to navigation.

C. A lack of actual knowledge that a zone has been declared a No Wake Boating Area or Restricted Boating Area shall not be a defense to any charge or citation brought hereunder.

D. Exception: The restrictions in this section shall not apply to Agency personnel and any law enforcement personnel of the State or other governmental entity, when such personnel are involved in providing emergency services, or enforcing the

provisions of this Code or State or Federal law. In such event and wherever practical, the watercraft shall be operated at No Wake speeds.

5.06           **PENALTY**

Any person, company, corporation or other entity found guilty of violating any provision of this Chapter during a flood event shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300 or more than \$500, injunctive relief to restrain violations, recovery of all damages caused by said actions or inactions and incarceration as provided by statute.



## **CHAPTER 6 RESTRICTED AREAS**

6.01	No Wake Areas
6.02	Unlawful Boat Anchoring
6.03	Buoy Regulations
6.04	Combustion Engines Prohibited
6.05	Swimming Area Restrictions
6.06	Designation of Restricted Waterway Areas
6.07	Designation of Emergency or Temporary Restricted Areas
6.08	Operation of Watercraft Upon Approach of an Authorized Emergency Watercraft

### **6.01 NO WAKE AREAS**

Unless more restrictive regulations are imposed at any time, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate any boat in excess of 5 miles per hour or at a sufficient speed as to create a wake in any of the following areas defined below in this Section 6.01. A lack of actual knowledge that a zone has been declared a “no wake boating area” shall not be a defense to any charge or citation brought hereunder.

1. All areas within 150 feet from shore throughout the Chain O’Lakes, excluding the Fox River;
2. All side and secondary channels throughout the Chain O’Lakes and Fox River;
3. Squaw Creek, Sequoit Creek and Nippersink Creek;
4. The following portions of the Fox River and specifically designated lakes:
  - (a) That portion of the Fox River at the Algonquin dam from the spillway to a point 3,000 feet upstream, measured in the middle of the river.
  - (b) That portion of the Fox River at the McHenry dam, including the approach channels to the McHenry locks, from the south end of the seawall of the property at 2404 Riverside Drive to a point 2,000 feet upstream from the center of the spillway, measured in the center of the channel;
  - (c) That portion of the Fox River at McHenry from the southern boundary of the McHenry Country Club upstream to a point 1,000 feet north of the City of McHenry park at Broad Street and Riverside Drive;
  - (d) That portion of the Fox River commonly known as Johnsbury Bay from the northern end, where the upstream bank turns away from main flowage, to the southern end of the community park;

- (e) That portion of Pistakee Lake northwest of a line from a point on shore southeast of the end of Bald Knob Court, to a point on shore between the properties at 3710 Pitzen Road and 3670 Grand Ridge Court;
- (f) That portion of Pistakee Lake near the mouth of the Fox River from a point on shore at the northerly boundary of 914 River Terrace Drive to a point on shore of the northerly boundary of 1455 Pitzen Road south to Lewis Lane;
- (g) That portion of Pistakee Lake which includes all waters southeast of the point where Bayview Lane crosses over the water and south of a line extending from the shore east of the northern end of Bayview Lane to the shore west of the intersection of Lakeshore Road and Matthews Terrace;
- (h) That portion of Pistakee Lake in Meyers Bay northeast of a line extending from shore southeast of the intersection of Scenic Lane and Hilltop Road to the shore northwest of the southern end of Kings Road;
- (i) That portion of Pistakee Lake in Meyers Bay northeast of a line extending from the shore south of 527 Pistakee Parkway to the shore 100 feet north of the channel at the southern boundary at 35544 Sheridan Drive, generally following the shoreline;
- (j) That portion of Pistakee Lake included in an area extending out from the east shore 300 feet, from the southern boundary of the property known as 16 South Pistakee Lake Road and following a line parallel with the shore north up to the northern end of 12 North Pistakee Lake Road and then heading in a straight line to the southeast tip of what is commonly referred to as Trinski's Island and from that point to include all waters east to the shore, north to the U.S. Route 12 bridge and northwest to the Fox River channel;
- (k) That portion of Pistakee Lake at the western tip of what is commonly referred to as Trinski's Island and from that point running parallel with the shore north to U.S. Route 12 and south to 100 feet south of the channel at the southern boundary of 1007 Fortress Drive;
- (l) That portion of Nippersink Lake extending out 150 feet from the U.S. Route 12 bridge in the vicinity of Nippersink Boulevard and Riverview Avenue;
- (m) That portion of Pistakee Lake in Pistakee Bay south of a line from a point on shore at 2713 Regner Lane, west to a point on shore at 1226 Old Bay Road;
- (n) That portion of Nippersink Lake west of a line extending from the shore southeast of the end of Riverside Island Drive to the shore 300 feet

southeast of the U.S. Route 12 bridge at the Fox Lake American Legion Hall;

- (o) That portion of Nippersink Lake included in an area extending 300 feet out from the northern boundary of the property known as 188 Howard Avenue running parallel with the shore in a northeasterly direction to a point at the northern most tip of Point Comfort running in a northeasterly direction to a point on the shore of Crabapple Island, approximately 150 feet northeast of the western most tip, then from a point on the shore approximately 150 feet southeast of the western most tip of Crabapple Island just west of the first pier to the eastern most tip of Point Comfort, otherwise known as the Korpan's Lighthouse;
- (p) That portion of Petite Lake southwest of a line extending from a point on the shore at the west boundary of 25701 Herman Avenue to a point on the shore at the east edge of the channel leading to Fox Lake, including all the channel to its exit into Fox Lake in Columbia Bay;
- (q) That portion of Petite Lake southeast of a line extending from a point on the shore at the east edge of the channel leading to Fox Lake to a point on the shore at the northern boundary of 38964 Cedarcrest Lane;
- (r) That portion of Petite Lake north of a line extending from a point on shore at the southeast boundary of 39303 North Lake Court (Antioch, IL) extending to the no wake channel marker continuing east to the south boundary at 39360 North Lake Avenue (Lake Villa) including all waters north to the southern Bluff Lake no wake channel marker;
- (s) That portion of Bluff Lake north of a line extending from a point on the shore at 40800 North Grand Avenue west to a point on the shore to 40825 North Park Avenue;
- (t) That portion of Lake Marie south of a line extending west from a point on the shore at the north end of Elime Road, including all the channel leading to Grass Lake, to the exit of the channel into Grass Lake;
- (u) That portion of Grass Lake west of the western edge of the north/south preferred boating channel, and north of a line extending west from the western end of Heart O'Lakes Boulevard, west to a point on the western shoreline of Grass Lake;
- (v) That portion of Grass Lake west of the western edge of the north/south preferred boating channel and south of the southern edge of the east/west preferred boating channel originating from the Fox River outlet into Grass Lake, except for a 150-wide non-restricted boating channel running parallel to and north of the "150-foot from shore no-wake area," ending 100 feet

north of the Chain O' Lakes State Park's southernmost boundary on the west shore of Grass Lake;

- (w) The channel between Lake Marie and Grass Lake;
- (x) That portion of Lake Marie east of a line extending south from a point on the shore at the southern boundary of 41862 North Bowles Avenue to a point on the southern shore at Hickory Street;
- (y) That portion of Lake Marie north of a line extending from a point on the shore at the end of Forest Avenue, east to a point on the southwest tip of land on the opposite shore;
- (z) That portion of Lake Marie north of a line extending from a point on shore at the south end of First Street, west to a point on the opposite shore, including all waters north to the entrance of Channel Lake;
- (aa) That portion of Channel Lake south of a line from a point on the shore at the southern boundary of 26398 Lake Street, east to a point on the shore at 26210 Spring Grove Road;
- (bb) That portion of Channel Lake northwest of a line extending from a point on the shore at the north end of Woodbine Avenue, northeast to a point on the shore at the eastern boundary of the Channel Lake Shores Association Park;
- (cc) That portion of Lake Catherine north of a line extending from a point on the shore at the west end of First Street, west to a point on the north shore of the point of land dividing Lake Catherine and Channel Lake;
- (dd) That portion of the channel connecting Nippersink Lake and Grass Lake to a point 300 feet north of the Grass Lake bridge and to a point 300 feet south of the Grass Lake Bridge;
- (ee) That portion of Grass Lake within 150 feet of the Blarney's Island 1995 pier configuration; and
- (ff) That portion of the Fox River where it enters Grass Lake, no less than 150 feet from the southern most point from state park property upstream to 42771 Park Avenue, Antioch.

## 6.02 **UNLAWFUL BOAT ANCHORING**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to anchor a boat in any of the following areas:

1. That portion of Pistakee Lake and Pistakee Bay south of a point on shore at 2713 Regner Lane, west to a point on shore at 1226 Old Bay Road (this area is also designated as “slow, no wake”);
2. That portion of Pistakee Lake in Pistakee Bay extending 300 feet out from the west shore from 1226 Old Bay Road, north to 1426 Old Bay Road; or
3. Any main navigation channel as defined in Appendix A of this Code.
4. In any area so as to block or disrupt the access zone to and from any residential and commercial pier, lift or other boat launching structure. For purposes of this Subsection 4, a violation occurs whenever a boat, or anything attached thereto including flotation devices from a boat, anchor lines, tie-up lines and/or other aquatic recreational equipment from a boat blocks or disrupts access to and from any residential and commercial pier, lift or other boat launching structure.

B. Penalty: Any person who violates any provision in this Section is guilty of a petty offense punishable by a fine of \$120.00 for the first offense and \$250.00 for each subsequent offense.

C. For any Permitted Event under this Code, the Executive Director may suspend the enforcement of these restrictions for the duration of the event or permit.

### 6.03 **BUOY REGULATIONS**

A. It is the responsibility of the IDNR to place and maintain buoys delineating “no wake” areas in the Waterway, from the mouth of Pistakee Lake, south to the Algonquin Dam.

B. It is the responsibility of the Agency to place and maintain buoys delineating “no wake” areas in the Waterway from the mouth of Pistakee Lake to the Wisconsin state line.

C. Except for employees of the IDNR or the Agency, it is unlawful for any person to tie any boat to a buoy or steal, remove, move, damage or otherwise tamper with any buoy or other navigational aid unless permitted, in writing, by the Agency.

D. Placement of buoys in violation of the Agency’s Homeowner Buoy Program rules shall subject the buoy owner to a fine of \$75.00 per day for each day the violation continues to exist.

E. No buoys, or buoy-type objects, shall be placed in the Waterway except for those authorized in this Section or pursuant to Chapter 12 of this Code.

F. Penalty: Any person, firm or corporation in violation of this Section shall be subject to the following penalties: a minimum fine of \$500, the cost of replacing the damaged or missing buoy or navigational aid, and:

1. For the first offense: revocation of their current Waterway User Sticker for the remainder of the boating season.
2. For the second offense: revocation of their current Waterway User Sticker and be ineligible for a Waterway User Sticker for the next three boating seasons.
3. For the third offense: revocation of their current Waterway User Sticker and be ineligible for a Waterway User Sticker in the future.

G. For purposes of this Section, the term “person” shall include any individual that commits a violation of this Section as well as any individual that either before or during the commission of a violation of this Section, and with the intent to promote or facilitate a violation of this Section, solicits, aids, abets, agrees or attempts to aid any person, firm or corporation in the planning or commission of a violation of this Section.

#### 6.04 **COMBUSTION ENGINES PROHIBITED**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a boat using a combustion engine in that portion of the channel between Fox Lake and the Grass-Nippersink Channel between a line from the northern most point of Crabapple Island to the southern most point of Ackerman Island to a line from the eastern point of Crabapple Island northeasterly to the opposing shore line.

#### 6.05 **SWIMMING AREA RESTRICTIONS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a boat using a combustion engine, electrical power or sail power in designated IDNR swimming areas.

#### 6.06 **DESIGNATION OF RESTRICTED WATERWAY AREAS**

A. The Board may designate restricted areas in accordance with this Section and the Act. For purposes of this Section, the designation of restricted areas refers to the establishment of a new restricted area and any change to an existing restricted area, including the elimination of all use restrictions on the area.

B. Establishment or Expansion of a Restricted Area:

1. The Board may establish a new restricted area or may increase the size of and/or number of restrictions on an existing restricted area.

2. Prior to establishing any new restricted area, or expanding or imposing additional restrictions on an existing restricted area, the Agency shall provide 21 days notice to any municipality in which the proposed area borders upon or is located. Notice shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality. This provision does not apply to the designation of emergency or temporary restricted areas except as provided in Section 6.07.
3. In determining whether and to what extent to establish a restricted area, the Board shall consider the following:
  - (a) Whether a boating safety hazard currently exists;
  - (b) Whether a public safety concern exists relative to other common water uses (e.g., swimming, skiing, etc.); and
  - (c) Whether a boating user conflict exists.

The issue or protection of private property is not appropriate criteria for designating a specific area as restricted.

4. Following the expiration of the notice period, the Board shall vote on the motion. If a municipality entitled to notice under this Section and the Fox Waterway Agency Act, 615 ILCS 90/7.1, by resolution of the corporate authority of the municipality, files an objection to the motion or petition, then such motion or petition shall not be granted except by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the Chairman and the Board of Directors.

C. Reductions and Removal of Restricted Areas: The Board may by motion eliminate, reduce in size or remove some restrictions from any existing restricted area.

#### 6.07 **DESIGNATION OF EMERGENCY OR TEMPORARY RESTRICTED AREAS**

A. The Executive Director is authorized to designate areas of the Waterway as being restricted for a period of time not to exceed 160 days in the following situations:

1. Where the Executive Director determines an emergency exists on the Waterway, which reasonably constitutes a threat to the public interests, safety or welfare;
2. Within an area of 150 feet of any construction, maintenance or improvement project relating to any federal, state or local government project; or

3. In locations where Agency employees are operating Agency vessels in response to emergency situations with emergency lighting activated.

B. Within a reasonable time after the designation of the emergency restricted area, the Agency shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which the restricted area is located, stating the location of the restricted area and the nature of the restriction. Failure to publish said notice shall not affect the validity of the restriction.

C. For purposes of this Section 6.07, an “emergency” does not include Permitted Events referenced in Chapter 12 of this Code.

D. In the event the Board seeks to continue an emergency or temporary restricted area as an established restricted area, the notification and hearing procedures in this Chapter shall apply.

#### 6.08 **OPERATION OF WATERCRAFT UPON APPROACH OF AN AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY WATERCRAFT**

A. Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency watercraft making use of rotating or flashing visual signals and lawfully making use of a visual signal, the operator of every other watercraft shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately reduce the speed of the watercraft, so as not to create a wake, and shall yield way to the emergency watercraft, moving to the right to permit the safe passage of the emergency watercraft, and shall stop and remain in that position until the authorized emergency watercraft has passed, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

B. Upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency watercraft, when the authorized emergency watercraft is giving a signal by displaying rotating or alternately flashing red, red and white, red and blue, or red in combination with white or blue lights, a person operating an approaching watercraft shall proceed with due caution at no-wake speed and yield the right-of-way by moving safely away from that authorized emergency watercraft, proceeding with due caution at a no-wake speed with due regard to safety and water conditions, maintaining no-wake speed until sufficiently away from the emergency watercraft so as not to create a wake that would otherwise rock or otherwise disturb the authorized emergency watercraft.

C. Violations; Penalties: Any person, firm or corporation in violation of this Section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$120 nor more than \$500, restitution of any property damage and revocation of their current Waterway User Sticker.

## **CHAPTER 7 NIGHT OPERATIONS**

- 7.01 Night Lighting Required
- 7.02 Night Speed Limits

### **7.01 NIGHT LIGHTING REQUIRED**

A. The Agency adopts and incorporates here as the regulations of the Agency all nighttime lighting regulations, and all subsequent revisions, amendments and the like, promulgated by the United States Coast Guard.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a boat at night without operating lighting as required by this Chapter.

### **7.02 NIGHT SPEED LIMITS**

A. General Limits: It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct night operations of any boat at a speed greater than is reasonable and proper given lighting and weather conditions but in no event shall such speed exceed 25 miles per hour.

B. Exemptions: Boats owned or used by federal, state and local governmental agencies, when being used in the performance of official government duties, including, but not limited to, law enforcement and emergency rescue operations, shall be exempt from all night speed limits.



**CHAPTER 8**  
**EXCESSIVE NOISE – STATE MOTORBOAT MUFFLER REQUIREMENTS**

**8.01 MOTORBOAT MUFFLERS REQUIREMENTS**

A. The Waterway is subject to the following muffler requirements of the Boat Registration and Safety Act, 625 ILCS 45, at all times:

1. All motorboats shall be equipped and maintained with an effective muffler or underwater exhaust system. For the purpose of this Section, an effective muffler or underwater exhaust system is one that does not produce sound levels that create excessive or unusual noise, or sound levels that are in excess of 90 decibels when subjected to a stationary sound level test as prescribed by the Society of Automotive Engineers in its procedure J2005. *625 ILCS 45/4-3A*
2. No person shall operate a motorboat on the waters of this State in a manner to exceed a noise level of 75 decibels measured as specified in the Society of Automotive Engineers in its procedure J1970 from any point on the shoreline, or from any point on the water within 20 feet of the shoreline, of the body of water on which the motorboat is being operated. *625 ILCS 45/4-3B*
3. No person may manufacture or offer for sale any motorboat for use on the waters of this State if that motorboat cannot be operated in compliance with the sound levels in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. *625 ILCS 45/4-3C*

B. The provisions of Section 4-3 of the Boat Registration and Safety Act shall apply to all the public waters over which the State has jurisdiction. *625 ILCS 45/4-3D*

C. Section 4-3 of the Boat Registration and Safety Act does not apply to:

1. A motorboat tuning up for or participating in a sanctioned race or regatta, or official trials for such race or regatta, authorized by the appropriate unit of government, or
2. A motorboat being operated by a boat or marine engine manufacturer for the purpose of testing or development as authorized by the appropriate unit of government. *625 ILCS 45/4-3E.*

D. Violations of the Boat Registration and Safety Act are subject to the enforcement and penalty provisions of Section 4-3F of the Act. *625 ILCS 45/4-3F.*



**CHAPTER 9  
LITTER, DEBRIS AND DUMPING**

- 9.01 Litter Defined
- 9.02 Policy
- 9.03 Dumping or Placing Litter in the Waterway Prohibited
- 9.04 Accumulation of Litter Prohibited
- 9.05 Abandonment of Watercraft or Vehicle Prohibited
- 9.06 Presumption of Violation by Watercraft Operator

**9.01 LITTER DEFINED**

For purposes of this Chapter 9, the term “litter” shall mean any discarded, used or unconsumed substance or waste, including, but not limited, to the following: garbage, trash, refuse, debris, rubbish; grass clippings, trees, branches, leaves or other lawn and garden waste; ashes, newspaper, magazines, glass, metal, plastic or paper containers or other packaging; construction material; vehicles as defined by the Illinois Vehicle Code, motor vehicle parts; abandoned watercraft, as defined by the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act; furniture, oil, dead animal carcasses, any nauseous or offensive matter of any kind, any object likely to injure any person or create a safety hazard, potentially infectious medical waste as defined by the federal or state Environmental Protection Acts and regulations enacted there under; or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature which has been discarded, abandoned or otherwise disposed of within the Waterway.

**9.02 POLICY**

The Agency has determined that one of the main impediments to safe and enjoyable boating, clean water and sound aquatic ecology is the continued siltation the Waterway, causing the Agency to spend the majority of its field operations budget annually in dredging silt from the lakes, channels and riverbed, and disposing of the same. Additional significant sources of river and lake bed deposits include leaves and debris and other litter, dumped into the Waterway, which also causes significant expenditures of Agency funds to clean up and remove such litter from the waters. It is also clear that continued siltation and deposition of leaves and debris, and other litter, into the Waterway poses a significant continued public expense and raises the potential for rendering the Waterway too shallow for navigation and diminishing much needed floodwater storage, and that remedies at law are, or may be, inadequate to prevent or remedy the siltation of the Waterway.

**9.03 DUMPING OR PLACING LITTER IN THE WATERWAY PROHIBITED**

No person, company, corporation or other entity shall dump, deposit, drop, throw, apply, discard, leave, cause or permit the dumping, depositing, dropping, throwing, applying, discarding or leaving of litter upon or into any river, lake, pond, channel, stream or other body of water within the Waterway.

9.04           **ACCUMULATION OF LITTER PROHIBITED**

No person, company, corporation or other entity shall allow litter to accumulate upon real property of which the person or entity charged is the owner or tenant in control in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance or in such a manner that the litter may be blown or otherwise carried by the natural elements onto or into the Waterway.

9.05           **ABANDONMENT OF WATERCRAFT OR VEHICLE PROHIBITED**

No person, company, corporation or other entity shall abandon a watercraft, snowmobile, or motor vehicle within the Waterway. The person to whom last was issued a certificate of title to the watercraft or vehicle is presumed to have been the person to have abandoned that watercraft or vehicle. A watercraft, snowmobile or vehicle will be presumed to have been abandoned if it has been partially or totally submerged for a period in excess of 24 hours.

9.06           **PRESUMPTION OF VIOLATION BY WATERCRAFT OPERATOR**

Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, dropped or dumped from any watercraft in the Waterway, the refutable presumption is created that the operator of that watercraft has violated this Chapter.

When a watercraft is abandoned in the Waterway, its removal by a towing service may be authorized by the Agency. When an abandoned, unattended, wrecked, burned, or partially dismantled watercraft is creating a traffic or navigational hazard because of its position in relation to the waterway, its immediate removal from the waterway by a towing service may be authorized by the Agency. Following such authorization, the owner of the watercraft shall be responsible for all towing costs.

## **CHAPTER 10 SILTATION**

- 10.01 Policy
- 10.02 Siltation Prohibited

### **10.01 POLICY**

The Agency has determined that one of the main impediments to safe and enjoyable boating, clean water and sound aquatic ecology is the continued siltation from within the State of Illinois and from the State of Wisconsin of the Waterway, causing the Agency to spend the majority of its field operations budget annually in dredging silt from the lakes, channels and riverbed, and disposing of the same. It is also clear that continued siltation poses a significant continued public expense and raises the potential for rendering the Waterway too shallow for navigation and diminishing much needed floodwater storage, and that remedies at law are, or may be, inadequate to prevent or remedy the siltation of the Waterway.

### **10.02 SILTATION PROHIBITED**

A. Except as may be specifically permitted in Section 10.02-B herein, no person, corporation or other entity, nor any State or other governmental body, shall cause or allow silt to be deposited into any of the lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, bogs, sloughs, marshes or other areas of the Waterway from any lands occupied or used.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 10.02-A herein, no person shall be deemed to have deposited silt in the Waterway or otherwise violated this Chapter 10 as a result of the routine spreading of salt, sand or other similar material in the process of winter snow removal from any public roads, bridges, highways, driveways or parking lots.



## **CHAPTER 11 WATERFOWL BLIND REGULATIONS**

- 11.01 Policy
- 11.02 Waterfowl Blind Permit Required
- 11.03 Waterfowl Blind Permit Application
- 11.04 Waterfowl Blind Construction
- 11.05 Use of Waterfowl Blinds
- 11.06 Removal of Waterfowl Blinds and Deposit Refund
- 11.07 Agency Inspection
- 11.08 Penalty

### **11.01 POLICY**

Due to the large number of persons using the Waterway, coupled with the close proximity of homes and businesses to the waters, the Agency has determined that it is necessary to implement reasonable programs and promulgate necessary and reasonable hunting rules and ordinances for the safety and protection of hunters, bystanders and residents, and there is an additionally clear need to regulate and set basic guidelines for the construction and removal of waterfowl blinds so that they shall not constitute a hazard to watercraft and others using the Waterways.

### **11.02 WATERFOWL BLIND PERMIT REQUIRED**

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or association to place a waterfowl blind in the Waterway unless a permit is obtained from the Agency. However, no Agency permit will be required for a blind for which the IDNR has issued a specific authorization through a state-sponsored drawing.

### **11.03 WATERFOWL BLIND PERMIT APPLICATION**

A. Application for a Waterfowl Blind Permit shall be made with the Agency, upon a form provided therefore, which shall set forth the name(s) and address(es) of the applicant(s), the phone number(s) of the person(s) responsible for the blind; the approximate location of the proposed blind; and the current Agency Waterway User Sticker number(s) for the principal boat(s) that will be used to reach the blind. No additional Waterway User Sticker will be required for a pontoon boat used as a waterfowl blind base.

B. Accompanying the application shall be a \$100 permit fee, and a \$400 refundable security deposit. The security deposit may only be paid in cash or by credit card, and may be refunded as provided in Section 11.06.

C. Once a permit has been obtained, it may not be "signed off," assigned, sold, or otherwise transferred to any other party. If the Agency permittee wishes to give up the

permit, it will go back to the Agency and subject to lottery. No blind shall be placed within 200 yards of another Agency-permitted blind.

D. An Agency issued card or tag shall be placed in the blind, which lists the name(s) and address(es) of the owner(s). Permanent 3-inch identification numbers, assigned by the Agency, shall be affixed to the blind so they are visible upon inspection.

E. The Agency will maintain a map of the Waterway, noting the exact location of blinds and their identifying numbers. Identifying numbers will be a permanent number that shall be used in consecutive years.

#### 11.04 **WATERFOWL BLIND CONSTRUCTION**

A. All blinds must be able to float. No pipes, metal posts, chicken wire or similar related material shall be utilized with or in support of construction of a blind. All components of the blind, including the sides, top, bottom and posts, must be permanently marked with 3-inch numbers displaying the blind number. An additional chain attached to an anchor shall be attached to the blind. The bottom of the blind shall be covered with plywood, not less than a quarter-inch thick. Pontoon boats may be used as a blind base.

B. Lights: All blinds shall display one amber barricade type blinking light visible 360 degrees from sunset to one-half hour before sunrise from time of construction until the close of the hunting season and thereafter shall require reflective tape on all four corners.

#### 11.05 **USE OF WATERFOWL BLINDS**

Only those persons listed in the permit application and their guests shall use a permitted blind.

#### 11.06 **REMOVAL OF WATERFOWL BLINDS AND DEPOSIT REFUND**

A. All Agency permittees shall remove all materials utilized in construction, camouflage and anchoring of the blind no later than April 1. Upon request of the permittee, the Agency may grant an extension for removing the blind to accommodate an early freeze or other weather-related problems.

B. To obtain a refund of the deposit, the permittee or owner(s) of the blind shall notify the Agency that all waterfowl blind materials have been removed from the Waterway pursuant to this Chapter. The Agency may verify that all material has been removed prior to returning the security deposit to the owner(s).

C. Refunds will not be made for any blind left beyond the removal date, or for any blind that was taken out of the Waterway without the Agency being notified of the removal.

D. The County may dispose of any waterfowl blind or parts thereof that remain in the Waterway or on the Waterway property after the removal date.

E. Permittee will be responsible for all costs of removal above the initial deposit. In addition, the permittee leaving a blind or any part of a blind or other hazardous debris in a recreation area may be subject to legal action.

#### 11.07 **AGENCY INSPECTION**

The Agency may inspect blind sites at any time to verify compliance with this Chapter.

#### 11.08 **PENALTY**

In addition to the standard penalty set forth in Section 1.06 of this Code, the blind owner(s) and/or user(s) who violate any provision of this Chapter shall be ineligible for a blind permit for the next three subsequent hunting seasons. Furthermore, any blind owner(s) not complying with any of the requirements of this Chapter shall forfeit their security deposit. If the removal costs exceed the deposit, the applicant(s) and/or any user(s) shall be responsible for making restitution to the Agency for the additional removal costs.



**CHAPTER 12**  
**WATERWAY RESTRICTION PERMITS**

- 12.01 Policy
- 12.02 Special Conditions
- 12.03 Permit Procedure
- 12.04 Board Review and Approval Procedure
- 12.05 Buoys

**12.01 POLICY**

In an effort to promote and improve recreational use of the Waterway, the Board may approve and issue Waterway Restriction Permits (“WRP”) for recreational events in the Waterway, such as boat races, business promotion of boats and related accessories, regattas, fishing derbies and other recreational activities, and for construction activity or commercial operations utilizing one or more boats within the Waterway (“Permitted Event”).

**12.02 WATERWAY RESTRICTION PERMITS REQUIRED**

- A. No activity restricting other Waterway users shall be permitted without first obtaining a Waterway Restriction Permit from the Agency.
- B. All persons desiring a Waterway Restriction Permit shall file a WRP application provided by the Agency and comply with all permit conditions for the Permitted Event.

**12.03 PERMIT APPLICATION**

- A. Application for a Water Restriction Permit shall be made Agency not less than sixty (60) days before the Permitted Event on the WRP Application form provided by the Agency.
- B. Applicant shall provide all information required by the WRP Application, including:
  - 1. Names and addresses of the persons in charge of the Permitted Event,
  - 2. Date(s) and hours of the event,
  - 3. A map depicting the area proposed for restricted access and the number of buoys required by the Agency to designate the restricted area,
  - 4. An executed signoff sheet for (a) the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the event and (b) the IDNR Conservation police,
  - 5. Proof of required local, state or federal authorizations or notifications for/of the Permitted Event.
  - 6. Certificate of insurance evidencing coverage and limits acceptable to the Agency and identifying the Agency as an additional insured.

- C. Applicant shall sign a waiver of liability in the form provided by the Agency
- D. Applicant shall pay applicable WRP and other User Fees as provided in this Chapter 4.

#### 12.04 **BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE**

- A. All Permit applications must be approved by the Agency Board. The Board's decision on the application shall be based, in part, upon whether the public's use of the Waterway will be unduly interfered with.
- B. Upon approval of a WRP by the Agency Board, any additional documentation required by the Agency as a condition of the WRP must be completed and provided by the Applicant, prior to signing and issuance of the Permit by the Executive Director. The Board reserves the right to deny any applicant the issuance of a WRP or revoke a previously approved WRP, upon violation of any condition of the WRP for the Permitted Event, or provision of this Chapter 12, including payment of applicable fees in accordance with Chapter 4.

#### 12.02 **BUOY RESTRICTION OF PERMITTED EVENT**

- A. Upon issuance of the WRP, the Permittee shall cause public access to the Permitted Event area to be restricted by buoys in accordance with the Issued Permit, and such restricted area shall be designated on the Waterway by buoys.
- B. No buoys used in conjunction with a WRP shall be placed or left in the Waterway which create or result in a hazard to boat traffic. All buoys shall be removed from the Waterway immediately upon conclusion of the Permitted Event.

#### 12.05 **AGENCY BUOYS**

- A. Buoys will be available from the Agency, for use during the Permitted Event. Buoys may be picked up and placed by Permittee, or at the request of the Permittee, by the Agency. The fees for Agency buoy use and/or placement by the Agency are:
  - 1. **Buoys rental:** \$20.00 per buoy.
  - 2. **Buoys with placement and removal by Agency:** The applicant shall pay for all staff time, equipment time, and buoy rental to cover all costs to install and remove the buoys of the Permitted Event, and the applicant shall sign an agreement to pay these FWA costs. The fee shall be paid at signing and issuance of the Permit. The Agency Board shall maintain authority to waive the fee(s) to an event, by a majority vote.
- B. The Permittee shall return the buoys to the Agency no more than five (5)

business days after the conclusion of the Permitted Event. Upon return of the buoys, Agency staff will count and inspect the buoys for damage. The Permittee shall be responsible for damaged buoys and correctly setting the buoys in cages, return the chain into the buckets, and the bricks neatly stacked as they were when received.

C. If the Permittee places the buoys, then the Permittee shall pay a refundable security deposit of \$250.00. The security deposit shall be returned to the Permittee upon return of all buoys, chains, clips, or any other item borrowed from the Agency for the event in acceptable condition. The security deposit shall be applied to repair or replace damaged or unreturned buoys. The full cost of the unreturned/damaged items will be the responsibility of the WRP holder.

D. The Permittee shall pay all fees and deposits required in this section prior to the Agency releasing the buoys to Permittee.



## **CHAPTER 13 DREDGING PROGRAMS**

- 13.01 Policy
- 13.02 Owner-Requested Dredging Program
- 13.03 Owner Funded Dredging Program
- 13.04 Board Review and Approval Procedure

### **13.01 POLICY**

A. The Agency is charged with providing safe, reliable, and efficient recreational navigation through state channels in the Waterway in a feasible manner, which includes maintaining navigability of state navigation channels to authorized depth or lesser regulatory depth.

B. Maintenance dredging removes sediment accumulated in the channel, returning them to navigable depths to provide safe, reliable, and efficient use of channels, rivers, lakes, and waterways for recreation.

C. With consideration of a variety of factors, including sediment quality, disposal volume, impact on public water navigation and recreational use, cost, budget constraints, and available resources, including equipment and aquatic staging and processing sites. Factors such as weather, flooding, and budget directly and often significantly impede the Agency's ability to complete all proposed dredging projects for a defined period.

D. To expedite dredging projects and increase the navigability of the Waterway, the Agency has established dredging programs to facilitate dredging upon request of property owners ("Owners") adjacent to or benefiting from Waterway areas covered by the Agency's state and federal permits but not scheduled for dredging. Dredging undertaken under the Agency's Owner-Requested and Owner-Funded programs is subject to Board approval.

### **13.02 OWNER-REQUESTED DREDGING PROGRAM**

A. The purpose of the Owner-Requested Dredging Program is to facilitate, to extent of the Agency's available resources, dredging in the Waterway and associated inlets at the request of Owners along the Waterway in need of dredging assistance.

B. Application: To participate in this program, an Owner must submit a request using the Agency's Owner Requested Dredging Program application in which the Owner must provide such information and agree to such terms and conditions as the Agency requires, including but not limited to (1) identifying the area requested to be dredged, and (2) consenting to Agency access to the Owner's property for the purposes of the Dredging Activity requested, including all associated trucking, loading, material storage, and

placement of geotextile fabric tubes (geotubes), for the duration of the requested Dredging Activities.

C. Prior to the commencement of the requested Dredging Activity. In addition to the application, the Owner shall execute the Agency's Property Access Agreement and Release and Hold Harmless Agreement and submit or execute such other documentation as the Agency may require.

D. The Agency has sole discretion to determine the suitability and priority of dredging and dredged material disposal projects performed by the Agency in the Waterway. The Agency will notify the Owner of the Agency's determination on the requested Dredging Activity.

### 13.03 **OWNER FUNDED DREDGING PROGRAM**

A. Purpose: The purpose of the Owner-Funded Dredging Program is to facilitate and expedite dredging in the Waterway and associated inlets by Owners along the Waterway who desire to use private funding and contractors to perform dredging in the Waterway adjacent to their property under the Agency's state and federal dredging permits, in lieu of obtaining an individual permits for such dredging.

B. Application: To participate in this program, a Owner must submit a request using the Agency's Owner Funded Dredging Program application in which the Owner must provide such information and agree to such terms and conditions as the Agency requires, including but not limited to (1) identifying the area requested to be dredged and the source of funding, (2) consenting to comply with all terms and conditions of the Agency's Dredging Permits, and (3) executing the Agency's Owner-Funded Dredging Agreement, and (4) providing Agency access to the Owner's property for the purposes of monitoring compliance with the Dredging Permit and Agency rules and requirements for the Owner-Funded Dredging Activity for the duration of the owner-funded Dredging Activities.

C. Owner-Funded Dredging Agreement: Prior to the commencement of the requested Dredging Activity, the Owner responsible for the funding and performance of the Dredging Activity shall execute the Agency's Owner-Funded Dredging and fully perform all requirements in the Agreement, including but not limited to the Agency's Owner-Funded Dredging Requirements.

D. Compliance with Agency's State and Federal Dredging Permits: All Dredging Activities must be performed in strict compliance with all applicable state and federal permits issued to the Agency for dredging and dredge material disposal in and from the Waterway and in accordance with the Owner-Funded Dredging Agreement and any additional program requirements adopted by the Agency or imposed by state or federal law that pertain to the Owner-Funded Dredging Activity.

E. The Agency has sole discretion to determine of the suitability and priority of all dredging and dredged material disposal projects performed under the Agency's Dredging Permits without regard to the availability of owner funding and private dredging resources. The Agency will notify an Owner of the Agency's determination on Owner-Funded Dredging Applications.

#### 13.04 **BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE**

Review of and determinations on all dredging program applications is within the exclusive discretion of the Board. The Agency shall issue rules and requirements for the Dredging Programs as may be required to under state and federal laws and permits.



## APPENDIX A DEFINITIONS

**Abandoned:** To give up, desert, forsake, to surrender or give over; also, unoccupied floating loose or hazardous to navigation. In addition, any Watercraft, snowmobile or vehicle partially or totally submerged in the Waterway will be presumed to have been abandoned if it continues to remain in the Waterway for a period in excess of 24 hours.

**Agency:** The Fox Waterway Agency as established by 615 ILCS 90/1, et seq.

**Agent:** An authorized representative who has the authority to make decisions or create obligations for another person, including employees.

**Authorized Emergency Watercraft:** Any Watercraft operated by the Fox Waterway Agency equipped with amber, or red in combination with amber emergency lights, or the IDNR Police, the Illinois Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a local law enforcement agency, a fire department, a provider of emergency medical services, or the United States Coast Guard, equipped with alternately flashing red, red and white, red and blue, or red in combination with white or blue lights, while engaged in official duties. 2009-0226-05.

**Blind:** Any structure used for hunting and anchored to the bottom that is camouflaged, disguised or altered in appearance to offer a place of concealment and capable of being occupied by one or more persons, and shall include any floating blind anchored to the bottom that is not removed each day.

**Board:** Board of Directors of the Fox Waterway Agency as established by 615 ILCS 90/1, et seq.

**Boat:** Any Watercraft or vessel used or capable of being used for transportation on water, whether propelled by oars, sail, motor or the like. The term Boat includes barges and other non-self-propelled vessels requiring towing for movement.

**Boat Registration and Safety Act:** 625 ILCS 45/1-1 et seq.

**Channels:** Main side and secondary channels of the Waterway.

**Chapter:** When “Chapter” appears within a Chapter of this Code, it means that particular chapter.

**Code:** The Fox Waterway Agency Code of Rules and Regulations.

**Commercial Boat Operations:** Means the use, navigation, mooring, launching, or operation of any Watercraft on waters under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Fox Waterway Agency for compensation or in furtherance of a business, trade, profession, or livery or other commercial enterprise, whether the compensation is paid directly or indirectly.

Commercial Boat Operations include, but are not limited to:

1. **Rental Watercraft** (Passenger for Hire), including passenger-carrying services, including tour boats, sightseeing cruises, water taxis, ferries, charter vessels, and party boats, whether operated on a scheduled or on-demand basis.
2. **Rental or Leased Watercraft**, including livery boats, personal Watercraft, or other vessels made available to others for use in exchange for payment or other consideration.
3. **Work Boats** used for instructional or guided services, including boating instruction, water-based recreation instruction, or guided excursions conducted for compensation, including fishing guides.
4. **Work Boats** used for commercial services performed from a vessel, including marine construction, dredging, surveying, towing, salvage, maintenance, repair, delivery, or similar services, advertising or promotional activities conducted from or upon a vessel as part of a business enterprise.
5. **Dealer Boats** owned by a Dealer and used in connection with the business of manufacturing, selling, or dealing in, on consignment or otherwise, any number of Watercraft.

**Commercial User Sticker.** An annual Waterway User Sticker issued by the Agency in the form of a Waterway User Sticker with a Commercial Endorsement authorizing use of Watercraft in Commercial Boat Operations.

**Commercial Endorsement.** An additional Waterway User Fee charged for Commercial Boat Operations.

**County:** Those portions of Lake County and McHenry County that are within the Agency's boundaries.

**Dealer:** As Defined in the State Boat Registration and Safety Act, 625 ILCS 45/1-2, any person who engages in the business of manufacturing, selling, or dealing in, on consignment or otherwise, any number of new Watercraft or 5 or more used Watercraft of any make during the year or a person licensed by the State as a new or used Watercraft Dealer who also sells or deals in, on consignment or otherwise, any number of Watercraft.

**Executive Director:** The chief administrative officer of the Agency appointed by the Board.

**Fish and Wildlife Service:** The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a bureau of the United States Department of Interior.

**FWA:** The Fox Waterway Agency.

**Heritage Plaque Watercraft:** A boat that has been issued a Heritage Watercraft

Identification Plaque from the Illinois Department of Transportation and where such plaque is displayed on the Watercraft.

**HP:** Horsepower.

**Compiled Statutes:** The latest edition of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

**IDNR:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

**Livery** means a person, corporation, company, business, or entity that advertises a livery Watercraft for use by another, in exchange for any type of consideration and does not provide the renter or lessee with a captain, crew, or any staff or personnel to operate, oversee, maintain, or manage the Watercraft.

**Main channels:** All channels in the Waterway other than side and secondary channels (i.e. those channels primarily serving subdivisions or properties located off the main traffic patterns in the Waterway).

**May:** May is permissive.

**Muffler:** A device consisting of a series of chambers or baffle plates or other mechanical design for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine which are effective in reducing noise.

**Open Meetings Act:** 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.

**Operate:** Operate means to navigate, steer, direct, pilot, control, propel, manage, command, or otherwise exercise actual or constructive control over a watercraft on the waterway, whether the watercraft is underway, adrift, anchored, moored, docked, or aground. The term includes:

1. Any person who is physically manipulating or directing the vessel's helm, throttle, propulsion, navigation, or steering systems;
2. Any captain, master, supervisor, or person in command who has responsibility for the vessel's navigation, movement, safety, or compliance with law, whether or not that person is physically at the controls at a given moment; and
3. Any person who authorizes, directs, or knowingly permits the use or operation of a watercraft in violation of this Code.

A person may be deemed to be operating a watercraft if that person has the authority or responsibility to control the vessel's movement or to prevent its unlawful use or operation.

**Owner:** A person, other than a lien holder, having title to a motorboat. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a motorboat subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment of performance of an obligation, but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

**OWR:** The Office of Water Resources of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

**Permitted Event:** Any event in the Waterway for which the Board will issue a Waterway Restriction Permit (“WRP”), such as boat races, business promotion of boats and related accessories, regattas, fishing derbies and other recreational activities.

**Person:** Any individual, firm, business, association, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, public or private, however organized. Because “person” shall include both human beings and organizational entities, any of the following pronouns may be used to describe a person: he, she, or it.

**Recreation:** Use of a Watercraft on the Waterway solely for personal use, pleasure or sport and not for compensation or in furtherance of a business, trade, profession or commercial enterprise.

**Recreational User Sticker.** An annual Waterway User Sticker issued by the Agency authorizing recreational use of the Waterway.

**Restricted Area:** An area on the Waterway designated by the Agency, the IDNR or the State of Illinois as subject to boat use and operation restrictions.

**Section:** When “Section” appears within a particular section number in this Code, it means that particular section. For example, if “Section” appears within Section 1.01 of this Code, Section means 1.01. When a number is included with the word “Section,” it shall mean that section number of this Code.

**Shall:** Shall is mandatory.

**Shoreline:** The entire breadth of the area where the waters of the Fox Waterway touch the lands, including specifically, the point from the high-water line experienced during flood stage, to the low water lines experienced during drought or drawdown.

**Side and secondary channels:** Those channels primarily serving subdivisions or properties located off the main traffic patterns in the Waterway.

**Silt:** Any waterborne earthen material, including sand, gravel, clay, dirt, dust or other similar material which is deposited by natural or artificial means into the Waterway.

**Siltation:** Any process or processes whereby silt is deposited into the waterway.

**State:** State of Illinois.

**Temporary User Sticker.** A Waterway User Sticker issued by the Agency authorizing temporary use of the Waterway for only one or ten days as indicated on the sticker.

**Treasurer:** A member of the Board of Directors that is selected by the Directors to serve as treasurer of the Agency.

**USACE:** The United States Army Corps of Engineers.

**Use:** Use means to operate, navigate, steer, direct, pilot, control, propel, manage, command, occupy, or otherwise exercise actual or constructive control over a Watercraft on the Waterway. The term includes ownership, custody, command, supervision, occupancy, or responsibility for a watercraft on the Waterway, whether the Watercraft is underway, adrift, anchored, moored, docked, or aground, and applies to all Watercraft present on the Waterway, regardless of whether the Watercraft is in motion or stationary

**User Fee:** The fees charged by the Agency for use of Watercraft on the Waterway for recreation or Commercial Boat Operations.

**User Permit Sticker:** Synonymous with Waterway User Sticker.

**User Permit Sticker Regulations:** The regulations adopted by the Agency, codified in Chapter 4 of the Code, and implemented and enforced pursuant the Code, the Fox Waterway Agency Act, 615 ILCS 90/1 et. seq., and 17 Ill. Admin. Code 2030.30.

**Waterway User Sticker.** Any User Permit Sticker, Commercial User Sticker, Commercial Endorsement, Recreational User Sticker, Temporary User Sticker, and any other sticker, permit, decal, or authorization of similar import issued by the Agency for use of the Waterway.

**Wake:** A movement of the water created by a boat underway great enough to disturb a boat at rest, but under no circumstances shall a boat underway exceed five miles per hour while in a posted “no wake” boating area.

**Watercraft or vessel:** Synonymous with boat.

**Waterway:** The Fox River and interconnecting lakes commonly known as the Chain O’Lakes from the Wisconsin state line to the Algonquin dam, all within the State of Illinois and as detailed in 615 ILCS 90/4.

**WRP:** A Waterway Restriction Permit.



**APPENDIX B**  
**BOARD RATIFIED AND ADOPTED PROGRAMS**

Each of the following programs has been adopted by the Board. Information on these programs is available at the Agency office:

- Dredging Program
- Customer Concerns Program
- Homeowner Buoy Program
- Waterfowl Blind Program
- Waterway Restrictions Permit Program
- Education Outreach & Boat Safety Program
- Code of Ordinances Program
- U.S.A.N.TO.N. Buoy Program
- Waterway Clean-Up Program